



**MESA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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The creative writing program and English department at Mesa Community College are proud to welcome poets Ashley M. Jones and Carmen Giménez Smith for a reading Tuesday, October 5 starting at 7:00 p.m. This digital event can be accessed at [meet.google.com/srq-tcfz-wky](https://meet.google.com/srq-tcfz-wky) or via phone at 1 901-602-4834, PIN: 917 012 691#. Any questions/concerns can be directed to Jeremy Broyles, [jeremy.broyles@mesacc.edu](mailto:jeremy.broyles@mesacc.edu). Please join us for an evening of memorable poetry courtesy of two exceptional writers bringing their unique, powerful voices to share with us at Mesa.



**Ashley M. Jones** is Poet Laureate of the state of Alabama (2022-2026). She holds an MFA in Poetry from Florida International University, and she is the author of [\*Magic City Gospel\* \(Hub City Press 2017\)](#), [\*dark // thing\* \(Pleiades Press 2019\)](#), and [\*REPARATIONS NOW!\* \(Hub City Press 2021\)](#). Her poetry has earned several awards, including the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award, the Silver Medal in the Independent Publishers Book Awards, the Lena-Miles Wever Todd Prize for Poetry, a Literature Fellowship from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the [\*Lucille Clifton Poetry Prize\*](#), and the Lucille Clifton Legacy Award. [She was a finalist for the Ruth Lily Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship in 2020](#). Her poems and essays appear in or are forthcoming at *CNN*, *POETRY*, *The Oxford American*, *Origins Journal*, *The Quarry by Split This Rock*, *Obsidian*, and many others. She teaches Creative Writing at the Alabama School of Fine Arts and in the Low Residency MFA at Converse College. Jones co-directs [PEN Birmingham](#), and she is the founding director of the Magic City Poetry Festival. She recently served as a guest editor for [Poetry Magazine](#).



**Carmen Giménez Smith** is the author of numerous poetry collections, including [\*Be Recorder\* \(Graywolf Press, 2019\)](#), which was a finalist for the 2019 National Book Award in Poetry, the PEN Open Book Award, the Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry, and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. She was awarded the Academy of American Poets Fellowship Prize in 2020. A 2019 Guggenheim fellow, she teaches poetry at Virginia Tech and at Bennington College. She has served as the publisher of [Noemi Press](#) since 2002.

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